

West Virginia Democrat.

Thomas H. Mason, Business Manager.

Mr. J. M. Mason, when in New York, will be at 15 Wall Street. This is in reply to applications for his address.

THE CAUCUS.

The body of the people fully understand that party organization is now used to thwart the public will. They see men like Wallis, Cowen and Marshall in Baltimore; Brannon, Haymond and John J. Davis in this State; Conrad, McDonald, and Mart in Virginia; McDonald in Indiana, and Thurman in Ohio, (—and these columns could be filled with similar instances,—) as completely from the public service as though convicted of crime! While other men notoriously corrupt hold almost every place of power. It is evident to all that party organization as now used is simply a method by which the bosses prevent the rank and file from electing men who mean what they say and who say what they mean. Every one must see that as things are now conducted the legislation most needed to check the aggressions of the money power is not even discussed much less enacted.

This is why the Democratic in West Virginia is lost.

Our Legislature stands 45 Republicans 46 Democrats. If our information be correct, (and whether correct or not it will serve as an illustration,) 24 of the Democrats are committed to the support of a particular candidate for the United States Senate and 22 are against him. In other words, 22 Democrats, reflecting their constituents, believe that it is best for the public interests not to elect this candidate to the Senate. These 22 Democrats added to the Republican make 67 against this candidate as compared with only 24 for him. Now the question is, whether, according to our theory of representative government, these 24 shall override the 67?

According to the doctrine of our modern managers of party politics, every Democratic member of the Legislature must go into caucus or be outlawed. According to this new doctrine a member of the Legislature, although elected upon his pledge to vote against this candidate, must violate that pledge and vote exactly contrary to the way he promised his constituents to vote. In other words, a man elected to represent a constituency must misrepresent it.

Now the question is can our party afford to go before the people on this issue? We put the question to thoughtful Democrats.

This doctrine of caucus dictation, this doctrine that the caucus must be obeyed rather than the voters at home, was promulgated at the last Legislature, and our managers of politics succeeded in preventing any discussion of it during the past campaign; but if it be promulgated again they will not be able to suppress discussion two years hence. The non-office-seeking class are unanimous that it is the first duty of a member of the Legislature to reflect the wishes of his own constituents.

The Bosses say it is the first duty to obey a caucus. Shall we commit our party to this doctrine of the Bosses?

Shall we shoulder this load? Is it wise to do so? Shall we take up a load, that is certain death, simply doing so will advance the personal fortunes of one particular candidate? Is the party to be destroyed for the benefit of one man?

Let us put a case by way of illustration; suppose 22 Democrats and also 45 Republicans offer to support W. L. Wilson or Gov. Jackson or Daniel Lamb or Chew or Flournoy or Judge Wood or any one of five hundred other citizens of this State (equally true to Democratic principle and equally true as the candidate who has 24 votes.) Shall the 24 outvote the 67? Has our party a fetich called Caucus?

But suppose the next Legislature stands 46 Republicans to 45 Democrats; suppose 24 of that party are pledged to a Republican candidate for the Senate whose election would be an injury to the State, and suppose the other 22 Republicans together with the 45 Democrats are willing to elect some eminently respectable Republican such as Wm. P. Hubbard, Archie Campbell or Thayer Melvin—how then will the Democratic party stand if we have established the doctrine that a member of the Legislature must surrender his manhood and also the pledge

upon which he was elected to a machine called "Caucus," which has been invented by politicians as an instrument to thwart the popular judgment?

We implore Democrats to reflect on this subject. We see now what others will see four years hence. Gentlemen, our party has far more to fear from inventions such as the Caucus than it has from Republican ideas. We give it as our deliberate opinion that the man or men who now display the nerve to repudiate the caucus fetich will render a service that the people will appreciate and reward. Is there not one man equal to the needed leadership?

THE SENATORSHIP.

[Hinton Independent.]

Hon. E. W. Wilson will be a candidate for U. S. Senator. The Governor has made a gallant fight for the Democracy of this State and deserves much at the hands of his party. He has made the best Governor the State has ever had and would make a good Senator.

No thinking man can shut his eyes to the fact that the money power, (Railroad Corporations, Trusts, and tariff-fed millionaires,) are so shaping legislation as to concentrate property in the hands of the few.

The need for men, whose interests and sympathies are with the unorganized masses in this fight with Monopoly, is urgent, pressing and imperative. There are some men so constituted by nature that they cannot betray a trust committed to them by the people. They are "made that way." Wilson is one of these men. He has ambition; but it is an ambition to lead in a fight for the protection of the masses against a money-power aristocracy. On this point he is as true as the needle to the pole. He may be too aggressive and too headstrong but his mistakes will be on the right side. He is exactly the kind of man the Jay Gould class are most afraid of and most anxious to keep out of the Senate. If we had even three men like Wilson in the Senate, the Railway Kings would not dare try to repeal the Inter-State Commerce bill. It is to us the most astonishing feature of the situation that the thinking men of this country don't realize the money value to them of the services Wilson would render in a place like the Senate. The circumstance that the Monopolists and their pensioners and their dupes are all against such men: the circumstance that the millionaire influence is busy to keep them out of office: the circumstance that our most successful politicians are not aggressive for the legislation most popular with the non-office-seeking class, ought to be sufficient to open the eyes of the masses.

THE DEAL.

EDITOR OF DEMOCRAT:

Your article "The Deal went go through," is extensively copied and commented upon. Some say you refer to a scheme to make Camden Senator, and some say it is a scheme to speculate in Virginia Debt Certificates; others say you refer to legislation which will enable the C. & O., the B. & O. and Davis's Company to control coal mines; other say you mean a job to seat Goff or to seat Fleming. Please tell us what you refer to.

ALONZA.

We have said what we have said. There are at least fifty men in West Virginia who know the facts as well as we do, and who are far better able than we are to stand the boycott that will be visited upon whoever publishes what a private interest wishes kept secret. Let one of these 50 men tell what they know. Why does every body hang back and ask us to run into danger. Who will take our part if we are wounded? If this paper was out of debt; if it could afford to make a fight at this time, it would do so. We have gone as far as we dare go. The truth is the men who have at heart the interests of the unorganized masses are too poor to make an honest fight. West Virginia is plundered for the lack of one man of brain, courage and wealth whose heart is on the side of the people. Gomorah was lost for the want of ten men. West Virginia will be lost for the want of one man. Blessed will be the West Virginia woman with a rich husband who bears a son equal to the occasion.

A man of affairs, speaking of a newspaper, said:

"It won't make money because controlled by a person who has fixed opinions and too much pride to write contrary to his convictions.—To succeed a paper must be either a kept woman or a common harlot."

ELECTION FRAUDS.

Let the Legislature, as soon as it meets, appoint a commission to investigate the election frauds. Let Goff name three and Fleming three. Authorize the commission to employ two of the best lawyers in the State, and pay them well. Bring all the facts to light. If half we hear be true, certain men, very active in politics, ought to be in the penitentiary. Such a commission would cause about 20 political fanatics and be of infinite value to the State. The cost would not be over half a cent per head for our population and hereafter a man of integrity, brains and nerve might stand some chance for office. This suggestion will not be popular with professional political managers.

THE 38 VOTERS.

The *Wheeling Register* has a telegram to the effect that J. W. Smoot, an ex-Sheriff in Boone county, observed a solid republican vote reported at a precinct where he knew of many democrats. He found 38 men who said they had cast straight democratic tickets and were amazed that they were not counted.

Here is a specific charge. Let the Grand Jury swear each of these 38 and indict the commissioners of election. Let the Legislature authorize Gov. Wilson to employ counsel to attend to these cases.

HON. JOSEPH SPRIGG.

[Kanawha Gazette.]

Hon. Joseph Sprigg, of Moore field, and formerly Attorney General, will be a candidate for the Speakership of the House of Delegates. His ability as Attorney General, his widely-known popularity, and the section he represents, all entitle him to the fullest measure of success.

Hon. JOSEPH SPRIGG, of Hardy county, is prominently spoken of in connection with the Speakership of the next House. Should Mr. Sprigg decide to make the race, he will be an exceedingly formidable contestant. He is an upright gentleman, an able man, and a staunch Democrat. The honor could not be laid on worthier shoulders.—*Wheeling Register*.

COR. CHEW is, in our judgment, the best man for this place but Sprigg undoubtedly is the next best man. We don't want a railroad attorney; we don't want a speaker who will permit the railroad lobby to name the courts. Chew is a farmer; having served two terms is more familiar with the present consideration of our public affairs than any one without a similar experience, and he has a personal knowledge of the methods of the railroad lobby possessed only by those present at the last two Legislatures: he knows who to trust and whom not to trust; you might as well try to move a mountain with a cobweb as to shake Chew when he has a duty to perform; besides he is gifted with that unusual and mysterious power that enables one man to keep a body of men steady at their work. For these reasons Chew is the best man for this place. Sprigg should be chairman of the Committee on railroads;—the most important post in the next House.

Our advice satisfy us that either Morris or Ritchie or Scott of Wheeling will be president of the Senate. If Goff be Governor and is elected to the U. S. Senate, then Morris or Scott will be governor of West Va. Here is the fruit of Machine politics. Kenna and Camden promulgated the doctrine that a member of the Legislature must violate the pledges he gave to voters and obey the Caucus: they declared that a caucus decree is more binding than pledges on the faith of which a man is elected: they ruled out all who refused to accept this infamous doctrine. Here then is the result of their work. Gentlemen, how do you like the result you have brought? By all means reward Kenna for making Morris governor. Truly, the men who produced our present condition deserve every honor our party can bestow.

Major Menager, of Pt. Pleasant, is still here. The Major was to be Goff's Secretary of State.—*Wheeling Register*.

This must be a mistake, Goff is a very shrewd politician. Mr. Menager is the gentleman who some three years ago issued a circular, "to be treated confidential and sent to Hart, Elkins" &c., calling "a private conference of republicans, who will not leak to meet in Columbus, Ohio, to make an honest effort to carry West Va." It is not safe for Goff to shoulder that circular: not at this time: some other time would be better.

THE SENATORIAL SUCCESSION.

It is perhaps not the most fortunate thing for the Democratic party of West Virginia that in this hour of trial while yet reeling under the double influences of calamity in the field of National politics, and a local Pyrrhic victory scarcely less disastrous, that we are called upon to meet a question at once peculiarly delicate and deeply concerning the life of the party. We refer to the election of a United States Senator. And in dealing with this question, surely after the lessons of this month, we may safely proceed upon the assumption that all the Democrats of the State (with the possible exception of a few mad with the lust of office) are anxious to do that which will best advance the cause of the party, and are willing to make personal sacrifices in the common interest. If we are mistaken in this, then the destruction of the party is pre-ordained, and it matters not by whom or how soon the work is commenced. But we believe we are not mistaken, and we therefore address our fellow-democrats in the spirit of conciliation, with the desire to offend no one, and inspired by the sole hope of restoring the party to vigor and insuring its supremacy.

Of course the first question which claims the attention of every Democrat in considering this subject is:

Shall the Hon. John E. Kenna again be made the ruler of the party, and returned to the United States Senate?

Let us see: Mr. Kenna has been in the Federal Congress continuously since 1876,—twelve years. Throughout all that time he has taken a most prominent part in the management of the party, and his influence since his election to the Senate in 1882, in conjunction with that ex-Senator Camden has amounted almost to dictatorship. They set up and they pulled down whomever they chose. In two instances only that we can now recall did this combination fail to accomplish what they sought. For six years,—yes for eight, for ten years the Democratic party has been under their thumb, and these two gentlemen more than all others in the State are responsible for its management during that period.

Well, how has the party fared under this domination? Has it thrived, or retrograded? The facts answer in unmistakable terms: The splendid majority of 17,000 which we won in 1876, the very year in which Mr. Kenna was first elected to Congress, has been frittered away until now we are in an actual minority in the State, holding our supremacy in the election of our candidate for Governor by the slender tenure of less than 100 plurality, and even that in imminent danger of being counted out. The Democratic majority in the Legislature has fallen from 44 in 1880 to 1 in 1888. The Third Congressional District,—the once proud "Gibraltar of Democracy" which twelve years ago gave Samuel J. Tilden 10,000 and Mr. Kenna more than 7,000 majority, and as late as 1882 elected him a third time to Congress by 5,000 majority, now dishonors her glorious Past, and elects a republican to the Federal House of Representatives. Well may Democracy exclaim to her self-installed leaders as the old Roman Emperor cried in the anguish of his soul in his rash and incompetent general, "O, Varus, give me back my legions!"

It is simply impossible for Mr. Kenna, who has assumed supreme control of the party, to evade the responsibility. The immigration incident upon the development of new coal mines and the building of new railroads has admittedly swelled the Republican vote, but a careful study of the election returns will show that these influences are wholly insufficient to alone account for the astonishing depreciation of Democratic majorities. Bad management by those who have insisted upon holding the reins of party control, vicious methods persisted in by raucous office-seekers, and the prostitution of official influence to the serving of personal ends in the distribution of public patronage,—all conspired to disintegrate the Democratic organization.—For years the marionettes of the rank and file have grown loud and louder, and had the "bosses" possessed but moderate discretion, they would have heeded the warning long ago. But instead, the rigors of ring rule, and the practice of corrupt devices were steadily continued until the climax was reached in the last campaign, when a ticket was put in the field by a convention wholly dominated by one man. Mr. Kenna's control of the Huntington Convention last August, was as arbitrary and as inexorable as ever that exercised by Oliver Cromwell over the notorious "Praise God Barebones" Parliament. Nor did his influence stop there, but was felt throughout the State even to its most remote corners, dictating with an invisible but powerful hand such nominations as best suited his interests.

Every member of the State Executive Committee named by the Huntington Convention was and is a devoted personal follower of Mr. Kenna; and their very first official act was the election of ex-Senator Johnson N. Camden to represent this State on the National Democratic Committee. Their control of the campaign was absolute. Mr. Camden contributed \$5,000 to the Democratic campaign fund upon the

express condition that he be allowed to expend it to suit himself, which was granted. When the National Committee two weeks before the election sent \$10,000 into the State, Mr. Camden was the consignee, and the money was disbursed according to the pleasure of himself and Mr. Kenna. From beginning to end, the campaign was conducted exclusively by Mr. Kenna and his chosen friends. If funds were misapplied, or the party management incompetent, or the organization inefficient, all of which is confessedly true, there can be no mistake as to where the responsibility belongs.

Now, fellow-democrats, in the light of these plain, unvarnished facts, with the fate of the party trembling in the balance, we ask you is it sensible, is it safe, is it justified by any plea of personal friendship, to restore to power the leadership which has brought us to the very verge of ruin? Was there ever in the history of the world a country, which kept at the head of its armies the commander who invariably led his soldiers into disaster? We throw not. Parties, like armies, however loyal, cannot fight well under one in whose generalship they have lost faith.

We do not breach this subject out of any personal ill-will to Mr. Kenna: indeed we would gladly avoid it if we could do so without doing violence to our sense of duty.

We wish to inflict no punishment for past wrongs, and we distinctly disavow any offensive intent. But this is a matter in which the future of the party is too profoundly involved to justify silence. It is a problem which confronts the party, and must be dealt with frankly and fairly. Surely, if ever new leaders and new methods were demanded by the exigencies of the hour, they are demanded now; and upon this, we firmly believe, the salvation of the party depends.

This subject we commend to the Democratic members of the Legislature. It is their duty to elect Mr. Kenna's successor. Let them approach it with a deep sense of the responsibility it imposes, and unless they are wholly blinded by personal feeling and intense selfishness, and if they are guided at all by patriotism, we have faith that they will decide aright.

Communicated.

WHEELING, NOV. 24, 1888.

EDITOR W. V. DEMOCRAT.—I see in a recent number of the *Wheeling Register* what purports to be an interview with Senator Faulkner, in which he, in referring to the West Virginia election, says "the Legislature is safely Democratic, and Senator Kenna's election is assured." Now it strikes the mind of the average observer of political events in this State, that the *oracular* announcement of the Junior Senator is, to say the least, not in very good taste, taken in connection with the political disaster that has so recently befallen the Democratic party in West Virginia, a disaster which was brought about by political methods and management that enable the oracles of the Ring to announce in advance what the Democratic members of the Legislature will be expected to do; but Senator Faulkner is a living example that the Democratic members do not always ratify the edict of the bosses, and it is to be hoped for the sake of the future welfare of the Democratic party, that the prediction of oracle Faulkner will not be verified by the next Legislature. Our party in this State sadly needs a rest from the domination and leadership of Camden, Kenna, Faulkner et al *gens omnes* whose leadership, has led us without question to political ruin almost, and the prevailing sentiment in many parts of the State is, if West Virginia is ever again to be placed in the ranks of Democratic States, there must be a change of leaders.

TRUE DEMOCRAT.

THE MESS' GE.

The President evidently feels that our present political managers will not make a bold fight to defend the unorganized masses from the aggressions of the money power. He says:

In the early days the tribute of the citizen "to the support of his government was measured by the cost of its economical maintenance, and he was secure in the enjoyment of the remaining recompense of his sturdy and contented toil." "Combinations, monopolies, and aggregations of capital were either avoided or sternly regulated and restrained." To-day, with the growth of wealth and of corporate capital, "we discover that the fortunes realized by our manufacturers are no longer solely the reward of sturdy industry and enlightened foresight, but that they result from the discriminating favor of the government, and are largely built upon undue exactions from the masses of our people."

We view with pride and satisfaction this bright picture of our country's growth and prosperity, while only a closer scrutiny develops a sombre shading. Upon more careful inspection we find the wealth and luxury of our cities mingled with poverty and wretchedness and unremunerative toil. A crowded and constantly increasing urban population suggests the impoverishment of rural sections and discontent with agricultural pursuits.

The gulf between employers and

the employed is constantly widening and classes are rapidly forming, one comprising the very rich and powerful, while in another are found the toiling poor.

As we view the achievements of aggregated capital, we discover the existence of trusts, combinations, and monopolies, while the citizen is struggling far in the rear or is trampled to death beneath an iron heel. Corporations, which should be the carefully-restrained creatures of the law and the servants of the people, are fast becoming the people's masters.

Still congratulating ourselves upon the wealth and prosperity of our country and complacently contemplating every incident of change inseparable from these conditions, it is our duty as patriotic citizens to inquire at the present stage of our progress how the bond of the Government made with the people has been kept and performed.

He mocks the people who propose that the Government shall protect the rich and that they in turn will care for the laboring man.

THINGS WE HEAR SAID.

Scarcely a day passes that we do not hear casual remarks on the cars, in Banks, or on the street, which indicate a condition of things the body of the people will not credit. We can only give a few illustrations:

A millionaire was asked by his brother why he bothered himself about politics. He answered:

"The d—d rabble have too much influence. They will unmake the laws out of which I get my profit."

A congressman thus explained why he was unaggressive:

"Monopolies, like railroads and trusts, crucify any man of brains who fights them. I want the votes of fools and get them by being unaggressive."

The drummer for a large printing house said:

"I only come in contact with the aristocracy as I deal chiefly with railroad officials and the officers of trusts and combines."

A financier said:

"I don't touch any business unless it is based on milking the public."

A railway managing Banker said:

"Of course I know this consolidation is contrary to law, but it will go through. Are you so simple as to think a d—d Legislature can thwart a movement offering the profit this offers?"

A successful politician said:

"He has good views and is perfectly right. He could be elected were he able to reach the ear of the people. But he is too poor to make a fight for his opinions and too honest to betray them. The men who manage politics cannot afford to put forward candidates who are aggressive for legislation opposed by the privileged class."

A wise observer of events said:

"Our system has changed. This is no longer a government by the people. It is the government of the people by those who feed on them. Men get office, not because they will do what the non-office-seeking class want done, but because while full of professions they won't accomplish anything, or else because they serve a private interest."



The importance of purifying the blood cannot be overestimated, for without pure blood you cannot enjoy good health.

At this season nearly every one needs a good medicine to purify, vitalize, and enrich the blood, and we ask you to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. It strengthens

Peculiar and builds up the system, creates an appetite, and tones the digestion, while it eradicates disease. The peculiar combination, proportion, and preparation of the vegetable remedies used give to Hood's Sarsaparilla peculiar and powerful curative powers. No other medicine has such a record of wonderful cures. If you have made up your mind to buy Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to take any other instead. It is a Peculiar Medicine, and is worthy your confidence.

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Malaria or Ague Surely Cured.

In this broad assertion, we speak positively, that these and all miasmatic poisons, can be radically driven from the system and a permanent cure guaranteed. Thousands of chronic cases, whose testimonials bear evidence, have been cured by our infallible remedy, which contain neither quinine, arsenic, or anything injurious. Full treatment free by old physician specialist of highest standing, also trial remedy and treatise sent on receipt of address to ASAHIEL MEDICAL BUREAU, July 20, 1881. 251 Broadway, N. Y.

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That their store is now in Holiday attire, and they will be glad to have you visit them, if possible, during the Holiday season.

They have purchased a very extensive stock of goods, both useful and ornamental, suitable for Christmas presents, and have also had manufactured for their use a large and attractive variety of "Fancy Boxes and Cartons" in which they propose to pack all goods sold by them; such as Fine Hosiery, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Collars and Cuffs, Scarfs, Ruchings, Laces, Dress Patterns, Damask Cloths, Sets, Toilet Articles, Stationery, Fancy Bric-a-brac, Fine Underwear, Infants Clothing, Mens Shirts, Collars, Cuffs, Scarfs, Half Hose, Gloves and everything else that is intended for Christmas gifts, and where the beauty and acceptableness of the goods will be enhanced.

Every reader of this paper should avail themselves of this opportunity. A good plan is to write for what you want, describing it as minutely as possible, and enclose the amount you wish to pay. They will make their best selection, and if it should not suit you can return it and your money will be refunded.

They call especial attention to the following interesting items:

Narrow Ribbons.

840 pieces No. 1, Picot-edge Silk Ribbons, in all the new shades, for fancy work, Christmas decorations, doll trimmings, etc. Only 17c. per piece of ten yards.

Gloves.

We are always offering good values in Gloves. Reliable qualities alone find room in this stock. We are through selling inferior gloves. 100 dozen Ladies' Button Suede Gloves embroidered backs in tans and browns. Only 75c. per pair. 100 dozen Ladies' Suede Gloves, embroidered backs in gray only. \$1 per pair.

Linen Department.

These need no comment. Table Damask 72-inch full bleached German linen table damasks, at the extraordinary low price of 25c. per yard. A damask two yards wide, for 50c. per yard.

Table Cloths.

Fine Bleached German Linen Damask Table Cloths, two sizes, extra good value. 2 yds., by 2 1/2 yds., only \$2 each. Size 2 yds., by 3 yds., only \$2.75 each.

Handkerchiefs for Children.

As the result of a large, judicious purchase we offer the following two great values in children's low priced handkerchiefs.

250 dozen children's colored bordered handkerchiefs, in a great variety of patterns, only 3c. each.

300 dozen children's handkerchiefs, in colored borders and all white, only 5c. each.

The linen handkerchief stock is rapidly assuming enormous proportions, preparatory to the Christmas season's trade. We shall not only maintain our reputation for being "Headquarters for Pure Linen Handkerchiefs," but we shall surpass all previous achievements.

Ladies' Hemstitched All Linen Handkerchiefs, white and colored borders, 8 1/2, 9, 10, 12 1/2, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 30, 35, 37 1/2, and 50 cents. Ladies' Initial Handkerchiefs, unlaundered, 15c. each; Laundered 2c., 25, 37 1/2, and 50 cents each. Silk "Initial" Handkerchiefs, 50, 75c. and \$1 each. Mens' Fancy Silk Handkerchiefs, 37 1/2, 50, 62, 75c. and \$1 each.

Notice.

We sent you one of our catalogues Did you keep it and its price; and on page two it tells you how to shop by mail.

We will publish a Christmas number, and will send it FREE to all who send us an order for goods.

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Washington, D. C.

nov.28/88